

THE EVE OF THE SESSION.

CAUCUS SCENES.

A NOTABLE EVENT AT THE CAPITOL—THE DEMOCRATS IN POSSESSION—ROUGH LOOKING ELEMENTS IN THE CROWD—MR. RANDALL DEFEATED BY THE DISTRICT BELT OF PENNSYLVANIA POLITICIANS.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The caucus of the Democratic Representatives, in the hall of the House yesterday, was one of the most notable events of Congressional history. For a quarter of a century the Democratic party has been obliged to occupy back seats in national politics, and to see them flock once more in formidable numbers to this city, and even take possession of one wing of the National Capitol, was a sight long to be remembered. The gathering of the caucus began as early as noon, although the caucus was not called to order until nearly 3 o'clock. To one who has been accustomed to frequent the Capitol of late years the crowd was mainly composed of strangers. Here and there, interspersed throughout it, were a few Democrats with whose faces we had become familiar in the last and previous Congresses, and a handful of Republicans ventured in upon the floor early in the afternoon, although they seemed to feel hardly at home in the chamber where they had ruled so many years. The old officers and employees of the House were also there, many of them at their old posts as from force of habit, but their faces wore a sad and anxious look, for they felt that the places that have known them so long would soon know them no more.

While it may be possible to form an intelligent estimate of a single man, or of a small group of men, by a brief observation of them, it is not in the power of any one to judge fairly at first sight of a great moving crowd, like that which gathered in the House yesterday. Some remarked that the impression made by the new members was not good; that they showed few outward signs of ability or strength of character; in fact, that there were more hummers than men of brains; but this was evidently an unfair criticism. It should be remembered that mingling with the new Democratic Representatives were twice their number of office-seekers, a class of men that has not been attracted to Washington at the opening of any former Congress for years. Some of these were seedy and shabby enough, while others of them, on whom fortune or some loaning friend had smiled, bore on their faces and showed in their manners signs of training not acquired in schools or in polite society. These men, who could not at first be distinguished by a stranger from a Representative from their district, contributed to the appearance of the assembly. Of course, all who have come here in search of office are not of the classes described.

Shortly before 2 o'clock the employees of the last House began to clear the floor of the outsiders, who swarmed first into the lobbies and then into the spacious corridors which surround the chamber. The special friends of the candidates gathered in convenient committee rooms. Some prominent Republicans took possession of the clerk's office, and a great crowd flowed back and forth through the lobbies or vainly besought the entrances to the House. Two hours had been spent in discussing the prospects of the leading candidates for the Speakership and Clerkship, and it is a remarkable fact, that up to the time the doors were closed, no one, except perhaps the candidates themselves and their nearest friends, knew how the caucus stood.

Every step in the proceedings of the caucus was immediately known in the lobbies. Mr. Lamar's speech upon taking the chair was discussed by a throng outside, before its delivery was finished, and the ups and downs of the debate on the method of taking the vote could be followed almost as intelligently in the corridors and committee-rooms as by those who were actually listening to it. As the preparations for the balloting were made, the excitement increased, and it finally reached fever heat when the result of the third ballot was announced, and it was learned that Mr. Kerr was nominated. His friends, of course, were jubilant. They tossed their hats in the air, slapped each other on the shoulder, and shouted until they were hoarse. Mr. Randall's friends were depressed in a corresponding degree, and hurried away out of sight as fast as they could.

When the nomination for Speaker was made the hour for dinner had arrived, and the caucus at once took a recess. This caused the doors to be opened, and the throng rushed in to repeat on the floor their demonstrations on the outside. Mr. Randall took his defeat good-naturedly, and his friends, who gathered about him, predicted that he would find the floor fully as pleasant and useful a place for him as the chair of the presiding officer. Of course the nominations of the caucus have disappointed many, but the sober second thought of all the better class of Democrats, even of those who supported Mr. Randall, is that the caucus has done its work well, and that its action has strengthened the party. Mr. Kerr is a man above reproach. Even his political opponents have nothing to say against his character, or his record as a legislator, and no one ever accused him of helping to uphold a corrupt ring, or even looking upon it with leniency. On the currency question he is as sound as any Eastern man can be. His record in opposition to subsidies of every kind is unbroken, and he does not hesitate to avow his principles on this subject. While none of the accusations were proved, against Mr. Randall during the canvass were proved, and while those who know him best believe that none of them could be proved, the fact remains that they were repeatedly made, and that they would be believed by many, and might prevent the growth of public confidence in the party which elected him. Again, Mr. Randall's character is not of that stern, unbending kind, which always goes right ahead, no matter what may happen. In his kindness of heart, he has more than once opposed his own party, when it has attempted to prevent an increase of salary for House employees, and the friendship of which make a man personally popular with those with whom he comes in contact. The fact that Mr. Randall comes from Pennsylvania was probably an element of weakness. His high tariff principles do not, of course, accord with those of a majority of his party; but the fact that the people of the country seem to have lost confidence in Pennsylvania politicians as a class, probably hurt him more than his advocacy of protection. The Democrats of the State are probably less to blame for this distrust of Pennsylvania politicians than the Republicans, but both parties have to suffer.

The action of the caucus, taken altogether, is almost universally looked upon as a great triumph for the Eastern or Irish branch of the Democracy over the Western Infinitesimals. It has been commonly remarked that the election of an Eastern Speaker would throw the Democratic nomination next year into the West, and vice versa. Now that the highest three officers of the House have been taken from the West, and the Speaker is at the same time an advocate of hard money, it has alarmed the friends of Mr. Hendricks and other Western candidates. The extreme men of the South have also been left out in the cold. The man nominated for the clerkship was a Union soldier, who worried the Confederates in Kentucky during the war more than any Northern soldier who went there; while Mr. Dubose, the son-in-law of Toombs, and Mr. Banks, Joe Johnston's chief commissary and Secretary of the National Democratic Committee, had very little support. The general feeling is that the Democrats

did a good day's work yesterday, and will be stronger with the people for it.

CAREER OF THE CANDIDATE.

The Hon. Michael C. Kerr, the candidate of the Democratic caucus for the Speakership of the House of Representatives, was born near Titusville, Crawford County, Penn., on March 15, 1827, of parents in moderate circumstances. He was chiefly self-educated, but studied at the Erie Academy, where he was graduated at the age of 18. During his attendance at the Academy Mr. Kerr became attached to Miss Cover, a young teacher in Erie, and immediately after his graduation married her. At his request the marriage was kept a secret until his return from the West, where he remained about two years. By teaching school Mr. Kerr earned the means to defray his expenses at the Louisville University, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1851. In 1852 he began the practice of law in the office of Judge Smith, at New Albany, Ind., nearly opposite Louisville on the Ohio River. His ability, industry, and integrity soon brought him to the notice of the public, and in 1854 he was elected City Attorney at New Albany. One year later he was chosen Prosecuting Attorney of the county (Floyd). In 1856 and 1857 he was a member of the Indiana Legislature. Five years later, in 1862, he was elected Reporter of the Supreme Court of Indiana, and edited five volumes of reports. In 1864 Mr. Kerr was elected as a Democrat to the XXXIXth Congress, in which he served on the Committee on Private Land Claims and on Accounts. In the XLth Congress he was a member of the Committee on Elections and Roads and Canals. In the XLIII Congress Mr. Kerr was a member of the Civil Service Committee, and in the XLIVth was a member of the Committee on Ways and Means. In 1872 he was defeated for Congress at Large in the XLIII Congress, by Godlove S. Orth, the Administration candidate, who received a majority of 126. Mr. Kerr was elected to the XLIVth Congress in 1874 by a majority of 1,200 out of a total of 26,573 votes. While yet a young man Mr. Kerr's career was overshadowed by the late Judge John Galbraith of the Erie District, who said: "That young man will make his mark in the world, should he live, and not meet with serious setbacks. His native ability, of which he has a goodly share, heightened by application, and his quick perceptions, added to his sterling integrity, will soon bring him forward. I would not be surprised to see him go up, step by step, until he reaches eminence." Mr. Kerr is an uncompromising Free Trader, and before the war was an extreme States' Rights man. He is in favor of hard money, but has not committed himself to any time or manner of resumption. It is stated that it was on his father's farm near Titusville that the first oil was found. In the year 1854, before the discovery, his father sold the place for \$3,000. Four years later the same place sold for over a quarter of a million.

(For Detailed Report of the Caucus, see Second Page.)

COMMITTEE PROBABILITIES.

GOOD WORK EXPECTED OF MR. KERR IN FORMING THE COMMITTEES—FERNANDO WOOD AND MR. RANDALL TO BE THE LEADERS OF THE HOUSE—WHO ARE CANDIDATES—PROPORTION OF THE PARTIES ON THE COMMITTEES.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Mr. Kerr is no doubt at work already on his Committee list. He is entirely untrammelled by pledges, and as he is altogether too high-minded a man to be influenced in the performance of this most important duty by personal feeling in favor of those who supported him in his canvass for the Speakership, or by prejudice against those who sustained Mr. Randall, we may expect that he will be governed by only two considerations which ought to have weight—the talents and experience of members, and the proper claims of locality. Chairmanships were promised liberally by some of his indirect supporters, but there is the best reason for saying that such promises were wholly without his authority or knowledge. The men who made them will scarcely venture to intrude into the new Speaker's that he ought to reward with prominent places on the Committees, either his original partisans or those who were won over to his support by hopes of preferment. Mr. Kerr is not the sort of man to listen to such suggestions with patience or even with courtesy. He will make up his list, guided by his own judgment, and by precedents that have come to have the force of parliamentary law. His task will not be as hard as one as was Mr. Blaine's after each of his three elections. The Democrats whom service in the House and eminent talents entitle to consideration, are not numerous enough to stand in each other's way. The list of such members does not much more than supply names enough for the important chairmanships. Current speculation as to who are to fill these positions has, therefore, a much better chance than usual of hitting the mark. Ask any two men, familiar with the customs governing the formation of committees, who are likely to have ten or twelve first-rate chairmanships, and you will find their guesses remarkably similar.

The Ways and Means Committee will, it is believed, be given to Fernando Wood, on account of his long service, his prominence, and the fact that his views on the tariff agree with those of the heavy majority of Democratic members. The Chairmanship of the Committee on Appropriations is the most important of this session, because the retrenchment of Government expenses is a controlling feature on the Democratic programme. Samuel J. Randall will, by common consent, be the Chairman of this Committee. He has annually expressed the belief that the total expenses can be reduced \$20,000,000, and will have a chance to show how it can be done. Mr. Randall and Mr. Wood will divide the honor of leadership, just as Mr. Daves and Mr. Garfield did during the last two Congresses. S. S. Cox would by previous service be entitled to the Banking and Currency Committee, but it would not do to give three financial chairmanships to the East. It is believed that he may get that of Foreign Affairs, for which he is well fitted by his extensive travels and knowledge of the world. Though the name of Gen. Banks, who has already served as Chairman of this Committee, has been suggested, he did not enter the Democratic caucus yesterday. The place for Mr. Holman is the head of the Claims or War Claims Committee, where his vigilance in watching for jobs will save millions to the Treasury.

L. Q. C. Lamar, the acknowledged leader of the Southern members, will have a prominent chairmanship, probably either that of Elections, on which he has already served, or of Banking and Currency. Mr. Hancock is talked of in connection with the Pacific Railroad Committee. Although a Texas member, he is understood not to be in favor of Col. Scott's subsidy scheme, at least in its present form. Milton Saylor of Ohio is by general report assigned to the Judiciary Committee. An excellent chairman for the District of Columbia Committee, and one not at all desired by Mr. Shepherd and the Babcock Ring, would be Smith Ely, Jr., of New York, an old member, returned after two years' absence. For the Naval Committee, Mr. Whitthorne of Tennessee is the most spoken of.

The Indian Committee will be of unusual importance this session, because of the investigation it will be called upon to make of the frauds in the Indian service. Mr. Wells of Missouri, Mr. Harris of Virginia, and Mr. Durham of Kentucky are mentioned as fit men for the chairmanship. Mr. Swann of Maryland will probably hold the Banking and Currency Committee or that of Foreign Affairs, if the latter does not fall to Mr. Cox. For the Public Lands Committee Mr. Herford of West Virginia, Mr. Proctor Knott of Kentucky, and Mr. Bright of Tennessee are mentioned. Mr. Alexander H. Stephens will, of course, have a prominent place. He is talked of for Chairman of the Committee on Revision of Laws, and for a position on the Ways and Means Committee. Heister Clymer of Pennsylvania, as the most prominent Democrat from that State next to Mr. Randall, ought to be at the head of the Committee on the Centennial. He

would also make a good Chairman of the Civil Service Committee.

For the Military Committee there is a lack of candidates, owing to a scarcity of prominent Democrats who served on the Union side in the war. Mr. Banning of Ohio would fill the place creditably. Other old members whose prominence entitles them to chairmanships are Mr. Morrison of Illinois, Mr. Faulkner of West Virginia, Mr. Buckner and Mr. Stone of Missouri, Mr. Barnum of Connecticut, Mr. Weddell of North Carolina, Mr. Luttrell of California (he will probably have Mines and Mining or Territories), Mr. Caldwell of Alabama, Mr. Hinton of Virginia, and Mr. O'Brien of Maryland. There will be chairmanships for all of them, though not in all cases of importance, suited to their wishes.

Among the new members of national reputation who have a right to expect as good assignments as fall to the lot of new-comers in Congress are Benjamin Hill of Georgia, John Goode, Jr., and ex-Gov. Walker of Virginia, Mr. Throckmorton and Mr. Reagan of Texas, Mr. Singleton of Mississippi, Mr. Payne of Ohio, and Mr. Seelye of Massachusetts.

The principal committees are composed of eleven members each. There are 291 members of the House, of whom 168 are Democrats, 109 Republicans, and 14 Liberals or Independents. To ascertain how many members of each committee eleven Democrats are entitled to, and how many belong to Republicans, it is only necessary to do a little ciphering in the rule of three. As 291 is to 109, so is 11 to the number of members the Republicans can claim on a committee. This gives four and a small fraction, but fractions by long established custom do not count for the minority, but do for the majority. Leaving out the Liberals and Independents, and applying the same process to the Democrats, gives them 6½ men. The half man will count for a whole one, and the committees will stand therefore, Democrats, 7; Republicans, 4.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THE GREAT RUSH FOR OFFICES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Representative Kerr received many of his friends to-day, who called to congratulate him on his nomination for Speaker. All concede his fitness for the position. The remarks of Representative Randall in the caucus, and his motion to make the nomination unanimous, are everywhere spoken of in terms of commendation. Surprise is expressed that the West and the South carried all the offices. For the 200 or 300 subordinate places there are at least 1,000 applicants, not a few of whom are already at work to secure the respective positions, including those of clerks, assistant clerks, messengers, document folders, pages, and bathroom attendants. A dozen or more applicants want the privilege of keeping the restaurant, which has for some years been in the possession of George T. Downing (colored). Some of the defeated candidates complain that certain members who promised them support were guilty of a breach of faith, having deserted them on the ballot. At least a dozen of the defeated candidates came hither with high expectations, but now wonder that they had so little strength. J. L. Townsend, who has charge of an Episcopal Church in Washington, and who received the majority of the votes of the caucus for Chaplain of the House, was nominated by the Hon. W. H. Barnum, who stated that Mr. Townsend had been driven out of Connecticut by the Republicans of that State for his political views. The first business of to-morrow will consist of calling the roll of members by Mr. McPherson, the present Clerk, and the administration of the oath of office, and next the election of Speaker, Clerk, Doorkeeper, Sergeant-at-Arms, Postmaster, and Chaplain. Questions affecting the seats of some of the members may arise, and therefore the organization be protracted by debate. In view of such an event, the President will not transmit his message to Congress until to-day at noon, which is the more probable time for that purpose. There is much speculation with regard to the appointment of the standing committees of the House, and already Representative Randall has been accorded by outsiders the chairmanship of the Committee on Appropriations; Fernando Wood, the Ways and Means, and Cox, Foreign Affairs. But such a list is of course without the least authority, and several weeks may elapse before the Speaker himself shall announce the committees.

THE MESSAGE AND CUBA.

A LONG PAPER AND AN UNUSUALLY GOOD ONE—OUR POSITION TOWARD CUBA AND OTHER FORMER SPANISH COLONIES.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The President's Message will not be sent to Congress until Tuesday. It will be longer than usual, and will contain about eighteen thousand words. His previous messages have not exceeded ten thousand words. The Message will no doubt be the ablest state paper of this Administration. The passage relating to Cuba will be quite long. It is understood that in the course of the consideration of the Spanish question, a parallel is drawn between the position assumed by us toward other Spanish American colonies and that more recently maintained respecting Cuba. We did not recognize the former for nearly eight years after their quarrel with the mother country began. The inference lies near, that as similar course may be pursued toward Cuba. The recognition of the belligerent rights of these colonies did not produce a war, although there was the same Spanish bluster then that is now exhibited. Our naval preparations then were similar to those that have recently been made.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITOL.

A WARNING TO DEMOCRATS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1875.

One of the Democratic Sunday papers has a peculiar advertisement. It is a cut of the Washington Club-house, with a letter-press which contains the following: "If you are Democrats who really want to see your party successful next year, and the Republic preserved and honestly again introduced into our Administration, then you will not go near that shabby club-house within one hundred feet of the Capitol, where you will see your Congressional term for the purpose of making money as fast as possible, then so there. The papers that still war for liberty and a true republicanism of government will watch you, and publish your names in the latter case as venal traitors to your party, your God, and your country. That club-house has been built with money obtained through that swindling Freedmen's Bureau Bank from the poor colored people in all parts of the country. The ground and every stone of the building belong to the tolling masses of the former slaves—the negroes of the United States."

AGAIN DECLINED WITH THANKS.

EX-GOV. WARD OF NEW-JERSEY HAS DECLINED THE INDIAN COMMISSIONERSHIP BY THE FOLLOWING LETTER:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 30, 1875. To His Excellency U. S. Grant, President. Sir: I have carefully considered the question of the Indian Commissionership. I appreciate better than I can state the honor of being thus connected with an Administration which, with just people, is now and in history will be so distinguished for ability and patriotism; but, having been engaged in a detail of business for many years until weary of it, I hesitate taking upon me the labor of the position, I am constrained to decline. Thanking you for this mark of confidence, I am, with the highest respect, very truly yours, M. C. L. Ward.

CHIMER AND CASUALTIES—BY TELEGRAPH.

UTICA, N. Y., Dec. 5.—John Scannell, the murderer of Bonobon, was delivered to the authorities of the insane asylum in this city last night.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 5.—Matt McCord was arrested in Lawrence County, Ky., Friday, and brought here by the United States Marshal, for setting up a bogus lottery, and using the mails to promote its interests.

BOSTON, Dec. 5.—George A. Walker of New Bedford, a freight conductor on the Boston and Providence Railroad, while coupling cars in this city last evening was crushed between the cars and died at 10 o'clock.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.—A dispatch from Campo, San Diego County, reports an attack by Mexican bandits. They are supposed to be Chaves's band, a Mexican, a Scotchman, and a Frenchman, who were killed and a number wounded. One of the robbers was killed and a number wounded. One of the robbers was killed and a number wounded. One of the robbers was killed and a number wounded.

SAINT LOUIS, Dec. 5.—A dispatch from St. Louis, Mo., reports a fire at the St. Louis Hotel, which destroyed the building and the contents of the hotel.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—A dispatch from New York, N. Y., reports a fire at the New York Hotel, which destroyed the building and the contents of the hotel.

FOREIGN NEWS.

MINISTER CUSHING'S NEGOTIATIONS.

MADRID, Dec. 5, 1875. Mr. Cushing, the United States Minister, has had a long conference with Señor Colanates, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is understood that the negotiations continue to be satisfactory.

SPANISH NOTES.

MADRID, Dec. 5, 1875. Heavy snow continues to retard military operations in Guipuzcoa. Spinola has been appointed Mayor of Madrid to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of the Count of Toreno to the Ministry.

Electoral tickets are to be distributed through Spain from the 5th to the 10th of December. The Spanish Legation at Lisbon has been raised to the rank of an embassy, and Señor Casto has been appointed Ambassador to the Portuguese Court.

THE MISSING STEAMER L'AMERIQUE.

QUEENSTOWN, Saturday, Dec. 4, 1875. The steamship Ville de Bresst of the General Transatlantic Company has sailed from this port to seek her sister ship L'Amérique, before reported disabled at about latitude 49° north; longitude 20° west.

LONDON, Dec. 5, 1875. Her Majesty's ship Valorous has sailed from Plymouth to search for and assist the missing French steamer L'Amérique. The North German Lloyd's steamer Kohn reports she spoke the L'Amérique in lat. 49° 10' north, and lon. 17° west.

TERRIBLE COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

LONDON, Dec. 5, 1875. A terrible explosion took place Saturday in the Powell Duffryn Pit near Tredegar. Twenty miners were killed, and ten have been taken out severely injured.

THE TRANSATLANTIC CABLE COMPANIES.

LONDON, Saturday, Dec. 4, 1875. There has lately been a rumor that the Anglo-American Cable Company desire to augment the number of telegraphic lines between Europe and America. The Daily News to-day says: "The Board of Directors of the Direct United States Cable Company yesterday refused to accede to certain demands of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company relative to tariffs. The result will probably be a renewed contest between the rival companies, and a low tariff."

THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

FOREIGNERS STILL MOLESTED.

HONG KONG, Dec. 3.—The Chinese Government makes the growing relations between Turkey and Kashgar with some alarm. The Kashgar soldiers are becoming rapidly proficient under Turkish training. A new and conciliatory policy toward the Mohammedans is said to be contemplated by the Peking authorities.

Raid, the French Bishop of Corea, and Abbe Blanc left Newchang, intending to penetrate Corea, disguised as mendicants.

There is continued trouble between foreigners and Chinese. American missionaries and ladies are assailed by mobs in Hankow, and an English lady was attacked at Juku. The telegraph builders have again been driven from their work near Pichuan, and the Amoy officials protest their inability to control the populace.

The attempts of China to control the Formosa aborigines are now merely nominal. All but 200 Chinese soldiers of the island have been withdrawn, and the remainder are now suffering to fall into decay.

Although it is admitted on all sides that Mr. Wade has secured power, the Chinese Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration. It is said that the Chinese Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration. It is said that the Chinese Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration.

An Imperial decree, conferring free intercourse on trade between the Chinese and the Japanese, and the Japanese and the Chinese, has been issued. It is said that the Chinese Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration.

JAPANESE AFFAIRS.

WAR WITH COREA ANTICIPATED.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 5.—The steamer Galie has arrived from Hong Kong via Yokohama. She brings the latest news from Yokohama. Nov. 11: A Japanese frigate, commanded by Capt. Ho, has just started out on a cruise in American waters. She touched first at San Francisco. No immediate action will be taken by Japan against Corea. The Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration.

Two important members of the Government—Shimadzu and Iwakura—have resigned their offices. It is currently reported that these resignations are the result of disputes on the Corea question, but this is untrue. They were dissatisfied, on different grounds, with the measures of internal policy adopted by the Administration.

Preparations are in progress for the opening of the new tunnel, on the northwest coast of Japan, in the Straits of Korea. The Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration.

All the Japanese inhabitants of the Island of Saghalien, which has been ceded to Russia, have petitioned for conveyance back to Japan.

The Italian and French buyers of salmon eggs have returned to Europe, having this year made small purchases. The Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration.

Armistice, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed as the head of a special commission to China, and to visit the coast of Korea. The Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration.

British Minister in Yedo is making strenuous efforts to prevent the selection of Americans for positions of trust under the Japanese Government.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF CATTLE.

TORONTO, Dec. 4.—The sale of short-horns, dent-horses, and Gettswood sheep, at the Crystal Palace yesterday, was the largest ever held in Canada. The three highest prices paid were \$5,000 for a Servant-horn, \$4,000 for a Kentish, and \$3,000 for a Kentish.

CALAMITY NEAR MONTREAL. MONTREAL, Dec. 5.—On Saturday the Rev. Father Murphy, editor of the True Witness, the famous lecturer on Papal Infallibility, and the Rev. Father Lynch, a talented young priest, lately from Ireland, drove out to Back River, seven miles from Montreal, and stopped at Lejeune's hotel. At night, after retiring, a fire broke out in the hotel, and Fathers Murphy and Lynch, and Madam Lejeune, a lady sleeping on the third floor, were burned to death. The fire was caused by a candle, and was extinguished by the fire department. The Government is not satisfied with the results of his administration.

FOREIGN NOTES.

TORONTO, Dec. 4.—Treasurer Crooks estimates the probable revenue of Ontario for the year 1876 at \$2,350,000 and expenditures at \$2,135,245, leaving a surplus of \$214,755.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—A dense fog hangs over the metropolis. Street and railway traffic is consequently interrupted. No accidents have as yet been reported.

RAGUSA, Dec. 5.—Raouf Pasha succeeded in throwing fresh provisions into Gorashko, but the insurgents, seeing that he was subsequently detained near Gashko, lost 1,000 killed and wounded.

A RAILROAD THAT OBJECTS TO TAXES.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 5.—In the United States Court yesterday a bill asking for an injunction to restrain the collection of the taxes assessed against the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, and also to enjoin certain counties from presenting certain suits for the collection of taxes, was argued by James C. C. for the stockholders, and by Attorney-General Hockaday for the State and counties. The case involves over \$500,000. The Judge took the matter under advisement till January, and requested the State Auditor and Attorney General to instruct collectors not to levy until he has had time to consider the case. They agreed to do so.

A BOLD BLACK BEAR.

MILFORD, Penn., Dec. 5.—The inhabitants of the western side of this village were startled this morning by the appearance of a huge black bear which walked boldly down Water-st. It came from the mountains, and was shot by the proprietor of the hotel.

crossed the Sawkill Creek on the ice and escaped. This is the tenth bear seen in Pike County this Fall. Eight of them were killed near the Promised Land lumber mill.

NO QUARTER TO THE WHISKY RING.

GEN. BABCOCK INDICTED.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 5.—The Grand Jury in this city found an indictment against Gen. Babcock, the private Secretary of the President, on Friday last, for his connection with the Whisky Ring. Owing to the absence of the District-Attorney, it was not announced in court yesterday, but will be without doubt to-morrow.

THE COURT OF INQUIRY NOT TO IMPEDE THE ST. LOUIS TRIAL.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The President having granted the request of Gen. E. B. Babcock for a court of inquiry into the charges made against him in St. Louis, yesterday designated Lieut. Gen. P. H. Sheridan, Major-General W. S. Hancock, and Brig-General A. H. Terry to compose the Court. They will be ordered to meet in Chicago, Dec. 9. Major Asa Bird Gardner, Professor of Law at the West Point Military Academy, has been detailed as Judge-Advocate of the Court. The official order provides that the Court shall report the facts as found, and give an opinion in the case. Attorney-General Pierpont telegraphed to the United States Attorney at St. Louis yesterday advising that officer of the appointment of the Court, and instructing him that the appointment of the military court is in no way to stay any proceedings that the court authorities in St. Louis may determine upon as being proper in the case. The United States Attorney is also directed to give the court every aid and required of him that is in his power, and to use all efforts to facilitate its thorough and complete investigation of the charges. A joint telegram was sent to District-Attorney Dyer, on the 24th instant, signed by the Attorney-General and the Secretary of the War, directing him to use every effort to prevent the implication of any innocent person in the conspiracy to defraud the Government, but to spare no one who is guilty.

COLLEGE FIELD SPORTS.

MEETING OF THE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 4.—A Convention of College men was held at the Massachusetts Hotel this afternoon for the purpose of forming an Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association. Ten Colleges were represented by delegates, as follows:

College. Delegate. College. Delegate. Amherst. A. B. Cook. Union. R. H. Haywood. Columbia. Randolph Barry. Williams. W. C. Smith. Cornell. A. M. Knapp. Yale. W. C. Wallace. Harvard. W. G. Greer. Yale. J. H. Hammond. Princeton. W. T. Kauffman. Trinity. J. D. McKinnon.

The delegates turned themselves to the parlors which had been made ready for their use, and the meeting was called to order about 2 o'clock. Mr. Greene of Harvard was elected Chairman, and Mr. Marquand of Princeton, Secretary. The business of the Convention had all been out and done before the meeting of the Association, and under the leadership of the leaders of the movement, and under Mr. Greene's skillful management, the work of permanent organization was quickly and rapidly done.

A committee appointed to prepare a constitution reported one which had been previously drawn up by Mr. Webb of Yale, making only a few changes in his copy. Each section was amended or adopted separately, and the whole was then unanimously adopted. The Constitution is closely modeled after that of the College Rowing Association, many sections of the latter Constitution being quoted almost word for word, with the substitution of the name, "An Athletic Association," for "Rowing Association."

A "Rowing Association," "and the field meeting," "annual regatta," and "Committee on Athletic Sports" for "Regatta Committee."

The annual field meeting is to be completely under the control of the Committee on Sports, who are to make all preliminary arrangements for the contest, and have charge of all moneys paid for prizes or extended in necessary preparations. It is also their duty to select and award suitable prizes in the several contests, and to report at each annual meeting for the government, the conduct of the sports.

For the decision of all contests there is to be a committee of judges, one from each college. All disputed points are to be decided by a majority of these judges. The annual convention, the President of the Association is to be Chairman of the Committee on Sports, and the two remaining members of the Committee on Sports, elected by ballot, at the annual meeting of the Association, shall be an honorary member and have a right to speak in any convention. This seems like an attempt at control by a small party, and is a very dangerous precedent; but those who supported the clause assert that it will be instrumental in arousing every enthusiasm in favor of the sports, and will be a great help to the Association in its efforts to raise the standard of athletic sports.

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